

**Virginia Scenic River Board
Virginia Housing Development Authority
Richmond, Virginia
November 13, 2003**

Virginia Scenic River Board Members Present

Richard G. Gibbons, Chair
Henry R. Broaddus
Ralph Hambrick
Patricia A. Jackson
Shelton Miles, III
Cardell C. Patillo, Sr.
Gordon W. Shelton

Joseph H. Maroon
James A.L. Daniel
Robert G. Harrison
Mark R. Merhige
Mary Lily Nuckolls
Christopher B. Rivers
Porcher L. Taylor, Jr.

Virginia Scenic River Board Members Not Present

Ralph L. Moore

Richard B. Taylor

Staff Present

Leon E. App
John R. Davy
C. Derral Jones

Lynn Crump
Michael R. Fletcher

Others Present

Frederick S. Fisher, Office of the Attorney General

Call to Order

Mr. Maroon called the meeting to order and welcomed members. He reviewed the agenda for the morning meeting.

Mr. Maroon offered a special note of thanks to Mr. Richard Taylor for arranging the meeting space and for providing the refreshments.

Mr. Maroon asked members to introduce themselves.

Virginia Scenic River Board Overview

Mr. Maroon gave an overview of the Virginia Scenic River Board. (A copy of this presentation is available through the DCR offices.)

In 2002, the HJR 159 Committee reviewed the status of boards and commissions, including the existing scenic river boards. In 2003, legislation recreated the statewide Virginia Scenic River Board and discontinued 18 local scenic river advisory boards.

Mr. Maroon reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the board.

DCR Orientation

Mr. Maroon gave an orientation to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. (A copy of this presentation is available through the DCR offices.)

The DCR mission is *To conserve, protect, enhance and advocate the wise use of the Commonwealth's unique natural, recreational, scenic and cultural resources.*

History and Overview of the Scenic River Program

Mr. John Davy gave a presentation about the history of the Scenic River Program. (a copy of this presentation is available through the DCR offices).

The Virginia Scenic Rivers Act was passed by the General Assembly in 1970. The first designation was 11 miles of the Staunton River in 1974. The system has now grown to 19 rivers or segments totalling 340 miles.

Mrs. Nuckolls asked if there was a negative component to the scenic river designation. Mr. Davy said that the only restriction the designation would place on a river is the prohibition of building a dam.

Mr. Broaddus asked if it were possible to remove the scenic river designation. Mr. Davy said that, in the event a river no longer met the specifications for designation that the process would go through the General Assembly to remove the designation.

Mr. Davy distributed to each member a copy of the 2002 Virginia Outdoors Plan. He noted the section and the map detailing scenic river designations.

Attorney General Orientation

Mr. Fisher reviewed key sections of the Freedom of Information Act and the Conflict of Interest Act. Copies of these acts were provided to members in their Board manual. Mr. Fisher advised members to read and be familiar with the key provisions of the acts.

He stated that should there be questions regarding potential conflicts, Board members are entitled to an opinion from the Attorney General.

Mr. Fisher reviewed the procedures for conducting a closed meeting.

Other Business

Dr. Hambrick noted that a number of scenic rivers have highway signage that identifies them as scenic rivers. He asked the process for obtaining this signage.

Mr. Gibbons said that the request needs to go through the Virginia Department of Transportation. This is usually a local request. Some localities have opted not to have the rivers labeled.

Ms. Jackson noted that she would like to see the Board work with VDOT with regard to river access. She said that when VDOT is building bridges that is an ideal time to provide for access points.

Mr. Davy noted that there is a good discussion of river access in the Virginia Outdoors Plan.

Election of Officers

MOTION: Mr. Shelton nominated Richard Gibbons to be chair of the Virginia Scenic River Board.

SECOND: Dr. Hambrick.

MOTION: Mr. Broaddus nominated Patricia Jackson to be chair of the Virginia Scenic River Board.

SECOND: Mr. Merhige.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Merhige noted that it would be beneficial to note the date member terms expired.

Ms. Jackson said that while she appreciated the nomination, she would support Mr. Gibbons as chair.

AMENDMENT: Mr. Shelton allowed the amended motion to read that Mr. Gibbons serve as Chair and Ms. Jackson serve as Vice Chair.

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Next Meeting

Mr. Gibbons noted that the next meeting would be held in the spring, following the conclusion of the General Assembly session.

Mr. Porcher Taylor invited members to meet in Petersburg for the next meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Gibbons
Chair

Joseph H. Maroon
Secretary